Monday world's hottest day on record, initial measurements show

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Monday was the world's hottest day on record, exceeding an average of 17 degrees Celsius (62.6 degrees Fahrenheit) for the first time, according to initial measurements taken on Tuesday by US

meteorologists.

The average daily air temperature on the planet's surface on July 3 was logged at 17.01C by an organization attached to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

This measurement surpasses the previous daily record (16.92C) set on July 24 last year, according to data from NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Prediction going back to 1979.

The world's average air temperature, which fluctuates between around 12C and just under 17C on any given day over the year, averaged 16.2C at the beginning of July between 1979 and 2000.

The record has yet to be corroborated by other measurements, but could soon be broken as the northern hemisphere's summer begins.

The average global temperature typically continues to rise until the end of July or beginning of August.

Even last month, average global temperatures were the warmest the European Union's Copernicus climate monitoring unit had ever recorded for the start of June.

Temperatures are likely to rise even further above historical averages over the next year with the onset of an El Nino weather phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean, which the World Meteorological Organization confirmed on Monday is now underway.

In addition, human activity—mainly the burning of fossil fuels—is continuing to emit roughly 40 billion metric tons of planet-warming CO_2 into the atmosphere every year.